

No. 9

Am  
Inaugural Address  
On  
Pennsylvaniæ.

By  
Thomas J. Payper.  
Virginia.

"What will do the most good, under most knowledge, and influence, than the use of time?"

November.

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Inaugural Dissertation  
on

Pneumonia Biliosa

In the medical annals of the United States there is not only a remarkable, but perhaps a singular fact, that a disease so rapid in its progress and fatal in its effects as pneumo-nia biliosa, a disease that has been known since the first settlement of Virginia, should have claimed so small a portion of attention from the faculty of medicine. It has, however, within a short period, received from Professor L. Peltier of Baltimore a well written description of its most prominent characteristics and therapeutick indications. So far as it escaped the attention of our own distinguished Physician of the practice of medicine &c in whose Therapeutics are to be found delineated its most prominent diagnostic symptoms, as well as correct method of treatment. This disease has not escaped the notice of the older writers in medicine; but it is only by a few incidental observations thrown out by them, that we can

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the influence, step from a want of proper discrimination, were led to call all diseases bilious, in which the excretion was tinged with a yellowish hue. I will here remark in advance, that I am indebted for a history of the disease to the work of Pippard Roll, entitled "ratio medendi."

This in common with many other diseases originated from sudden vicissitudes of weather, as changes from cold to heat &c. dense, cold, humid atmosphere, closing up the orifices of the skin is by Buxam said to be a cause of pneumonia biliosa.

To those, which are the principle if not the sole causes given by European writers, may be added many others. It is the immediate offspring of a low temperature engendered upon missanatich predisposition. No country long exposed to missanatich effluvia, is clear of its prevalence in some one of its various modification. But, the disease is more fully developed in those latitudes, most exposed to sudden changes of temperature.

Immigrants, from a northern to a southern climate, are in an eminent degree liable to the bilious

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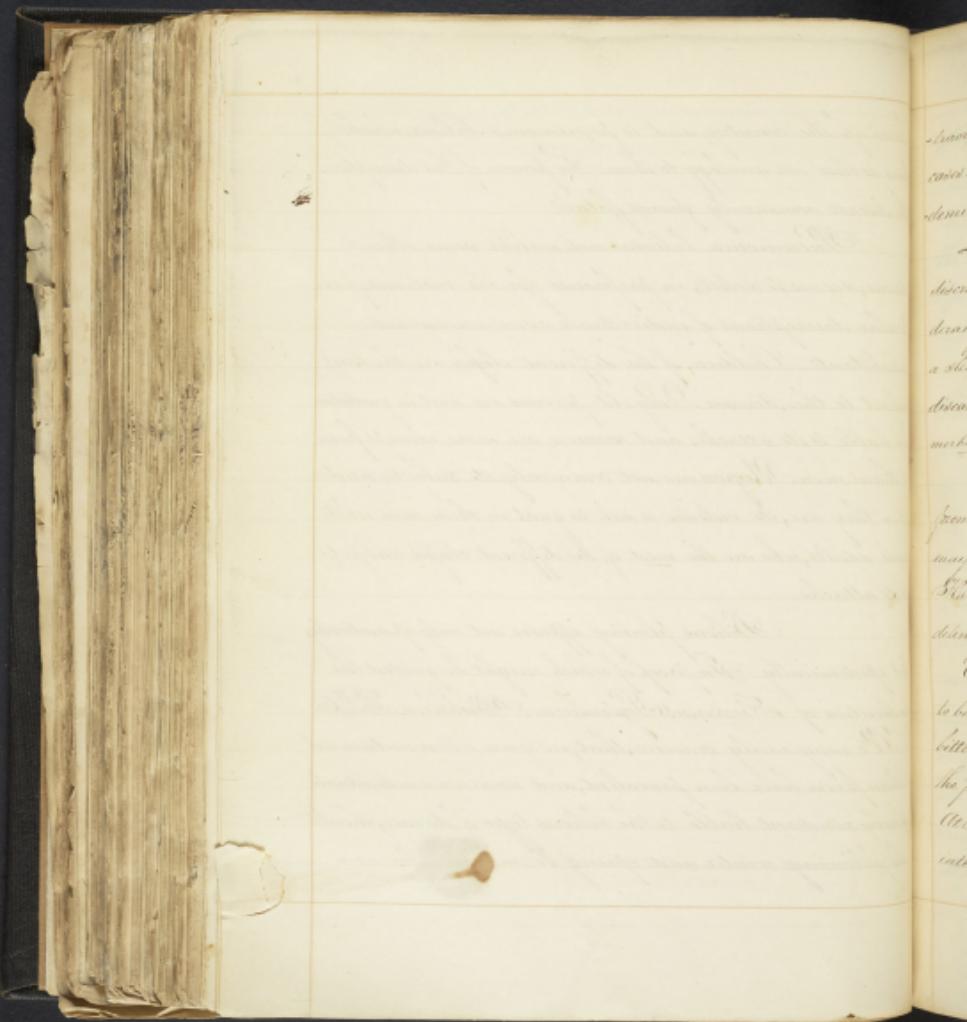


fevers of the country, and to pneumonia biliosa, which bears no close an analogy to them. In persons of this description the disease commonly proves fatal.

Pneumonia biliosa not, unlike some other disease, seems to select in preference for its victims, particular descriptions of individuals even among native inhabitants. Children, of the different classes are the least subject to this disease. Very old persons are most in gradation liable to its attacks; and women are more exempt from it than men. Negroes are not commonly its subjects; and when they are, its violence is not so great in them as in white male adults, who are the most of the different classes subject to its attacks.

Bilious febrile appears not only sporadically but epidemically. In proof of which might be quoted the authorities of *Brumley's Epidemic of Boston, 1812*.

We may easily conceive, that, in years where autumnal bilious fevers have been prevalent, and numerous individuals thereby rendered liable to the bilious type of disease, should the following winter and spring be marked by ex-



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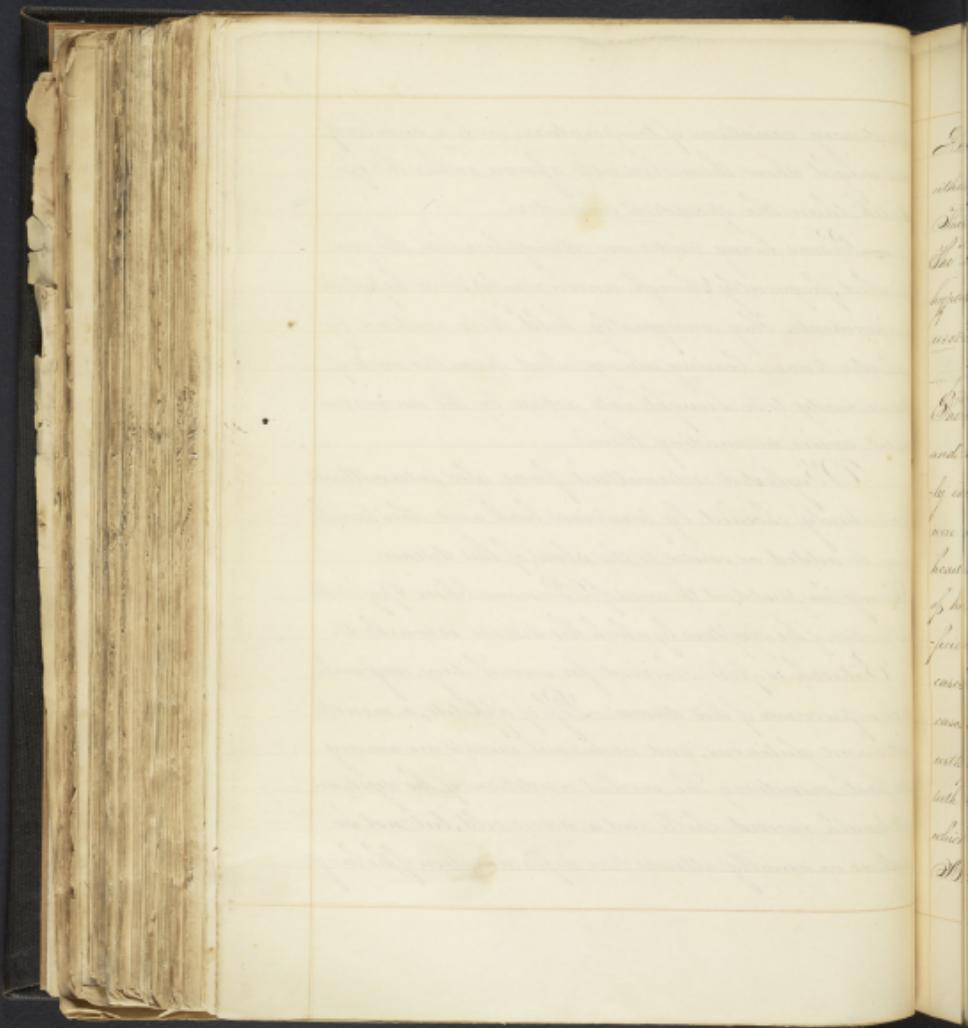
-travestinary variations of temperature, such a number of cases might show themselves, as to afume rather the epidemic than the sporadic character.

Persons living under an atmosphere like the one described, (though unconsciously) have hepatick disarrangements. They consequently hold their existence by a slender tenure; bearing always about them the seeds of disease, ready to be brought into action by the numerous morbid causes surrounding them.

Wreaked intermittent fevers, also intermittent fevers prematurely checked by peruvian bark and other tonicks may be added as causes, to the above, of this disease.

Giving thus pointed out the causes of The pulmonary disease & pointing the delineation of the symptoms by which the disease is marked.

Belches often observed for several days, may worth to be a precursor of this disease. Loss of appetite, a mouth bitter and glutinous, and nocturnal sweats are among the first monitors of the morbid condition of the system. Although racking chills and a severe cold, but not so intense as usually attends true inflammation of the lungs.



Great soon follows; great oppression of the breast, acute pain  
 either the stomach or one or other side of the thorax.  
 This pain frequently manifests itself in the whole chest.  
 The discomfiture on either side gives no pain to the patient. The  
 hypochondria are tense and painful especially to the touch. The  
esophagus cordis and parts situated below are intolerable to  
 pressure. Bitter evolutions accompany these symptoms.  
 The discharge are either obstinately constipated, or very liquid  
 and bilious. The countenance in many instances is strikingly  
 indicative of the disease; the face being interwoven as it  
 were with a subtle mixture of greenish yellow. The pain in the  
 head is so severely torturing, that it gives the patient the idea  
 of his head being clept asunder. The thirst is slight, yet suffi-  
 ciently great for the nature of an acute disease. In these  
 cases the tongue is sometimes white and mucous, but in most  
 cases it is covered with a granish yellow matter, or is rough  
 with prominent villi, tinctured with the same colour. The  
 teeth are frequently foul; A sense of distension in the stomach, to  
 which is joined sensations of a painful weight or lead in the same.  
 Sensibility is lost about the precordia. There is frequent vomiting;



and a dragging pain of the back. The spittle is usually tenacious, thick and glutinous, but sometimes truly greenish.

It is not uncommon, that patients under the influence of this disease, are so severely affected as to loath and nauseate food, and to be unable to suffer it in their sight, from the extreme irritability of the stomach.

The pulse for the most part is soft, and of various degrees of quickness in different persons.

The fever is irregular, being sometimes of one tenour, or exacerbating at indefinite periods, without any fixed or determinate type.

The urine first yellow, in a short time becomes of a jumentous appearance.

These are the general and more striking symptoms, by which tracemona biliosa may be known; though all of them, are rarely, if ever found in the same patient.

Cystosis of the breast and difficulty of respiration already particularized, are always present, and with them, the tongue and taste, are depraved in the various degrees described.

Nausea and loss of appetite are also constant attendants.



Vomiting, either bilious or otherwise, are not invariably present with it; but of course all complain of a biting sensation at the cardiaque extremity of the stomach, is a particular symptom in this disease; we may sometimes expect to find this, however, is to be observed, that the sensations above the stomach, though never absent are not at all times strikingly obvious except by pressure.

The symptoms above noted as characteristic of the disease, as it occurred in Louisiana, and even all over Europe, are but mildly compared to the aspect it assumes in this country, as described by Dr. Potts of Bellmore.

The following remarks transcribed from his paper entitled "Variations on pneumonia biliosa" will give a correct idea of the disease as it often presents itself in the Southern States. The stomach, in cases, is not only highly irritable and occasionally actually inflamed, but the black comet is sometimes as copiously formed, as in yellow fever, small clots from the villous coat of the stomach are ejected, which although

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very often pass unnoticed by the naked eye, can very frequently be discovered by a good glass."

Dear a consciousness, that it is of importance to practitioners, to be in possession of all the symptoms of a disease. I have been induced to enumerate this numerous train. A disease in its commencement, before its character is well marked by clear indications, often lurks under an ambiguous assemblage of symptoms common to many diseases. In this state, it is at all times difficult to determine the species of the disorder just arising into existence, and to arrest it by the early applications of suitable remedies, while yet in the bust.

We are next to tell the importance of a correct diagnosis in the treatment of disease; but a clear one, on the forming stages and has ever been a desideratum in medicine. I shall therefore attempt to give, according to the present state of our knowledge; the diagnostic symptoms of pneumonia critica and pneumonia vera.

1<sup>o</sup>. Some inflammatory disease causes for its victim, the robust and stolid - attacks without previous warning.

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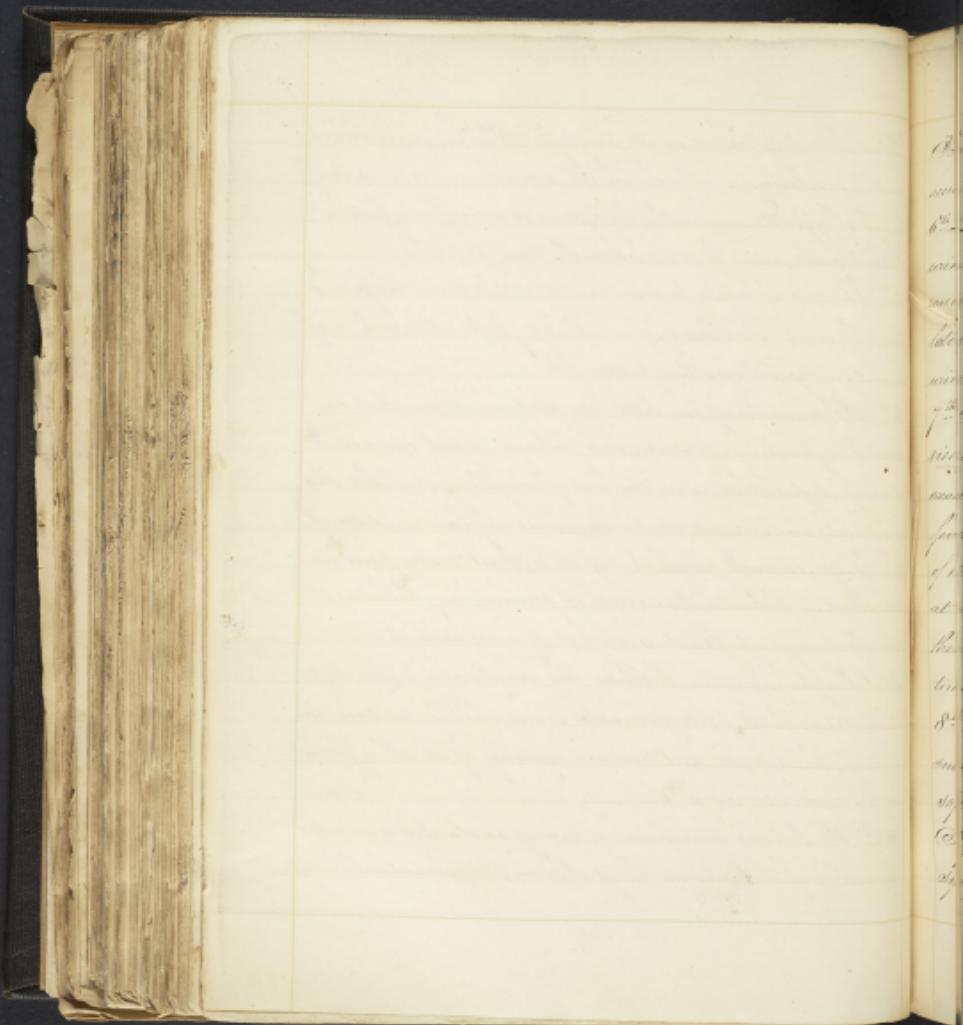
and is extremely rapid in its progress. <sup>3<sup>rd</sup> Pneumonia biliosa, on the contrary is slower in its advances and insidious, by loss of appetite and other symptoms denoting an affection of the prima via, for a considerable time previous.</sup>

<sup>2<sup>nd</sup> Those who use a pururious diet as the lower class of people and also those of a weak and feeble stomach, &c of a naturally bilious temperament.</sup>

<sup>3<sup>rd</sup> A character of no little importance to recollect is, that the pain in pneumonia biliosa, is not increased during inspiration or in the act of coughing; whilst the patients labouring under genuine inflammation of the lungs, cannot cough or respire without severe pain in the chest. Besides the cough of pneumonia biliosa rarely brings up blood unless it be very violent.</sup>

<sup>4<sup>th</sup> In pneumonia biliosa the scrofulous erdes hypochondria, head, abdomen, and loins chiefly sustain the force of the disease, but are not equally, if at all affected, in pneumonia vera.</sup>

<sup>5<sup>th</sup> A bilious diarrhoea in many instances is an admonisher of the approaching disease of pneumonia biliosa.</sup>



But not so in pneumonia vera, only as an accidental occurrence.

6<sup>th</sup> Prior to pneumonia biliosa or at its appearance, the urine is deprived of its natural colour, becomes yellowish, resembling the yolk of an egg, with a sediment mucous, or latratives. In genuine pulmonary inflammations, the urine is reddish, sparing, and without sediment.

7<sup>th</sup> In genuine inflammatory affections of the thoracic viscera, or any part of them, the fever is continued, with exacerbations accompanied by chills. The concomitant fever of pneumonia biliosa, is usually of the family of the continued remittents; the exacerbations recurring at stated periods, or uncertain intervals. They show themselves daily, every third or fourth day, or several times during the twenty-four hours.

8<sup>th</sup> The pulse in pleuritis, is strong, hard and small, or contracted. In pneumonia biliosa it is soft, and varying in velocity in different individuals. After the consideration of this parallel between the symptoms of pneumonia biliosa and pneumonia vera,



it is proper to note a few collateral points of equal importance informing an opinion of the nature of the disease, which, if passed unnoticed might prove fatal to the patient.

1<sup>st</sup>. Bitter taste though almost an insuperable symptom of affection, may, notwithstanding, be absent, even when the prime vice are loaded with an enormous quantity of crude matter. In patients on the other hand who have no bilious taint, and in those affected with true inflammation of the lungs, bitterness of taste in the mouth will sometimes be found. We should, therefore be cautious of concluding from mere bitterness of taste, that there is a predominance of bilious derangement.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Coughing and vomiting are not infallible signs that the derangements of the system depends upon hepatic disturbance. Coughing and vomiting are not unfrequently the effects of actual inflammation of the lungs, exciting into action the diaphragm, oesophagus, stomach &c. Hence as coughing and vomiting may be induced by an idiopathic affection of the stomach,



so the vomiting apparatus may symbolically be excited into action by an inflammation of the lungs &c.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Other symptoms disagreeing, vomiting & bile itself is not a sign the disorder is bilious; for in almost every act of vomiting, bile is pressed into the stomach and intestines, from whence it is thrown up by the effort of vomiting.

4<sup>th</sup>. Persons, otherwise, in perfect health with the exception of some slight irritation, may take place.

The difficulty of forming a prognosis in pneumonia biliosa, wholly unexceptionable, will it is hoped be a sufficient apology for the following quotation from the late Prof<sup>r</sup> of Vienna. Non observamus, statim prius, et certe si cernum numeru, has aegres indicari, nec facilius cuius obnoxii erant; id solum observatum, spuma, quo initio statim absorbere, purpe puerum glotonosa, tenacia, dea aquosa copiosaque ad finem morti usque, quo sensim cum levamine minuantur. Hincqum vidimus spuma illa funiformia, coelaque, qualia matrum catharrum, aut inflammati pulmonis solvere solent. Quidam intra oto dies rorabantur, quidam



eo in utero stomachum, et c. virginis.

Treatment. The primary indication from the pathology of pneumonia biliosa, evidently directs our remedial resources to the chyleoctic vasa; Other contingencies, however, call for our attention in, or through the course of the disease. These, or at least a part of them, will be noticed during the course of the treatment.

Pulled to a patient labouring under the number of symptoms pointed out, or those which plainly indicate the disease of which we are speaking, it being rare to find them all combined in the same person; it is proper to commence the treatment with an emetic, by the operation of which the bilious irritating contents are ejected from the stomach, sometimes extremely bitter, or at others, acid austere. This is all we have reason to expect from its operation, its beneficial results not being confined to the simple expulsion of the bilious contents, but from the strong impression on the stomach extending to the general system. The whole man feels its happy effects. To say in one word, what has been uttered again and again and

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*pneumonia biliosa* from the operation of an emetic. so that those pains in the head, breast, stomach, and hypochondria are invariably relieved; sometimes they are completely removed, and the disease put to an end. We are, however, to expect this immediate beneficial result from the operation of a simple emetic, only, in the accession of the more mild and less aggravated form of the disease. To kick up the excretion of the bilious and other irritating contents from the bowels, it is necessary to preserve them in a soluble state by the milder cathartick, as castor oil, infusion of salts, and senna and calomel; but these are never to precede the administration of an emetic. Irrigation, according to Pott, in the commencement of *pneumonia biliosa*, aggravate its symptoms, inducing severe exacerbations, increasing the febrile irritation and pulmonary infiltrations.

An emetic being prescribed, should the precaution of keeping the bowels in a soluble state, be neglected, we should in most cases be under the painful necessity of seeing the disease assume its original character, or put on an inter-



sullen type. The last mentioned feature, is, however, very easily checked, the bowels being rendered soluble by mild catharticks, by the use of peruvian bark.

Notwithstanding the copious evacuations of bile, and other exciting matters from the prima via, sometimes the recovery is quite slight; but surprise is not to be expressed at this, nor is the treatment described to be abandoned; another emetic is to be administered, and so happy in most instances will the issue be, that scarcely ever is it necessary to prescribe a third.

<sup>6</sup>Expectorants and diaphoreticks, which form no small part of our *materia medica*, are alike indicated, they are not to be recurred to, before the evacuation of the prima via has been completely effected, and the trace of the morbid irritation disappeared. Then are they followed by the most beneficial results, but if injudiciously they are made to enter into the *materia medica* of the first stages of the disease, infinite mischief may be expected.

Bloodletting, in the view of the disease, which has

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ben taken, is, of all remedies, to be considered the most injurious; as producing the most frightful train of symptoms, under which the patient frequently dies, and is immediately lost.

Should the disease, from the severity of its accision or other cause resisting the force of the treatment described, continue in its march, it is reasonable to conclude that the lungs or their appendages are involved in considerable inflammation. — Here, it is not improper to recur to venesection, but not without circumspection, the case affording being slight and convalescent. In further confirmation of this point, I trust the liberty of transcribing a passage from *(D'Est)* is allowable.

—*Si vena scita fuerit, omnia mesabol  
ducto sanguine in pupis ruulant: salve emeticæ-catharticum  
projicit, et constans plerumque, ac insigne levamen attulet.*

*Vidimus quendam a myopicæ sanguinis mox delirare, quibus em-  
eticum sanam denuo mentem restituit. Vidimus affectus reperi-  
toris, incipientium postictenorum, resolutionem seruiciorum facili ex-*



riso latere. Lubetum cuncto-cathartico salutatum, et olio securus of Polio  
mercurius.

It has been the fashion in medicine in which ambiguity fashion has too much influence, to neglect the emetic plan of treatment in acute diseases, and to substitute in their stead other modes of medication. Without intending to derogate from the justly esteemed virtues of mercury, which has been pronounced the "Swampion of the materia medica," its liberal employment is not to be recommended in pneumonia biliosa.

In this opinion I quote the authority of Dr. Price.  
From the pathology of this disease he observes, it would naturally occur to every one acquainted with the transcendent virtues of mercury, that it would prove clearly indicated as an alternative.

It is however problematical whether mercury be not sometimes detrimental.

It is only in the acute, and more chronic instances that we derive any advantage from it, and in those

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it would seem to act by its slow impression on the remaining morbid condition of the liver, which is really the last part divested of diseased action."

LBlisters are indicated in the same condition of the system, which call for expectorants; those cases in which the pulmonary symptoms predominate over the bilious, and where the bilious are complicated with rheumatic symptoms which sometimes is to be met with; the system being reduced to the blistering point, the most decided and frequently astonishing effects follow from the use of blisters.

Exactly on the same principles blisters are to be applied to relieve the inordinate pain in the head heretofore mentioned as an attendant on this disease.

I mentioned opium only to reprobate its use in the early stages of the disorder which we are investigating.

LReasoning from false analogy some may be induced to attempt to quiet the turbulence of the stomach, by the stupefactive powers of this noble medicine. It would be as rational to attempt to extinguish fire by pouring on it oil. Having brought

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to a close all I had to say on *Pneumonia Albus*:  
I submit to you Gentlemen, the observations made,  
without an apology, which, in gratitude I am com-  
pelled to render with the highest degree of respect  
and veneration, in whatever station of life fortune  
may cast my lot. To apologise for various reasons  
not requisite to mention, is unnecessary. I trust,  
however, it may be allowable for me to say, if from  
the paucity of the materials, and the inexperience  
of youth, any hints may have been desired, which  
will lead to a further investigation of the disease  
mentioned, I will have done all, perhaps more,  
than I dare hope, since *Pope* draws largely on  
a small capital not yet in its possession.



